

Ohio Beetles Bulletin

Occasional Publication of the Ohio Coleopterists

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Family: Staphylinidae, Subfamily: Megalopsidiinae

Megalopinus caelatus (Gravenhorst)

Megalopinus rufipes (LeConte)

The Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication in conjunction with the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. It is hoped the OBB will provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

“When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision”.

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of the Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: Only two North American species and both are found in Ohio. *Megalopinus caelatus* (Gravenhorst) 09-16 June-2012 Vinton County, Ohio (Flight Intercept Trap). *Megalopinus rufipes* (LeConte) 28-Aug-2009 Ross County, Ohio (Under Oak Log) Ken Karns Specimens and Photo. One of my favorite Staphs!

Karl H. Stephan's

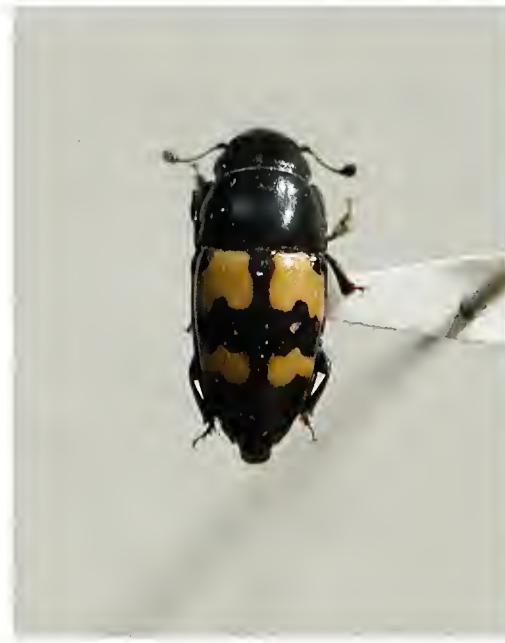
“Stump-Trap”

I first read about this type of trap in the late Karl H. Stephan's The Bothrideridae and Colydiidae of America north of Mexico. Karl goes on to describe the trap as follows: "In early spring, before the sap rises, cut down a tree, 1 foot in diameter or more. Make the cut 2 to 3 feet above ground. Then, making a nice clean cut, remove a 4 to 6 inch slab off the top of the stump. Clean the cut of all saw dust and replace the slab in its original position. The beetles will enter the saw cut and can be gathered by simply lifting the slab off and examining it."

I hated the thought of cutting down a good sized tree just to give this method a try! The opportunity presented itself this spring when a couple of trees had to be removed that were threatening my cabin property in Vinton County, Ohio. I had the trees cut down and decided to try Karl's "trap". I replaced the cut slab back on the stump, as described by Karl (figure 1). I returned the following weekend to check the "trap" among other beetle related collecting "chores". It was obvious the sap had collected in the cut and upon removing the slab was greeted with a plethora of beetles, mostly from the family Nitidulidae (figure 2) appropriately called the Sap Beetle. I counted at least four different species of the genus *Glischrochilus* (figure 3) and many others. I suspect as the stump dries out it will give way for a host of different beetle species.



(figure 1)



(figure 3) *Glischrochilus fasciatus* (Olivier)
Ken Karns specimen and photo



(figure 2)

Introduction to Insect Macro Photography (Part II)

By Scott Hogsten



In the previous issue of the Ohio Beetles Bulletin (Issue #11), I discussed some basic photography principles especially as they apply to macro. Hopefully you have all read your camera manuals and found out how to manipulate your camera settings. If not go find it and read it now. Macro-photography doesn't need to be complex or expensive most simple point and shoot cameras are quite capable of producing excellent macro photos. Even some camera phones, the iphone in particular, can also take decent macro shots. So what are the trade-offs to using a point and shoot or camera phone? The biggest issue is working distance, because of the nature of the camera lens and chip in these cameras you may almost need to touch the subject to get the closeup you need. The secondary issues are issues of getting a good flash image (because the camera needs to be so close) and resolution limits (e.g. the finest detail you can photograph). The camera doesn't need to be a high end point and shoot either as long as the camera has a macro mode you are good to go. If you are shopping for a new camera look for a camera with good low light performance that has a macro mode.

Assume you have a point and shoot camera or cell phone use the manual to determine if your device has a dedicated macro mode. This is usually represented by a small flower symbol either on a dial or a button. Put your camera into this mode, then using the screen on the camera shoot some pictures around the house. While you are doing this pay attention to how shallow the depth of field where the object is in focus, also notice how the area that's in focus is in a plane. I suspect you are also going to notice that it is quite difficult to keep things in focus. Keep practicing shooting macro with your camera. The number one thing you can do is practice with the camera. No amount of reading, studying, or watching videos is going to substitute for good old fashioned practice.

After you practice for a while there are some techniques you may want to try to improve your shots. Especially with insects as soon as you start to get close to your subject start taking pictures. This does several things for you, most importantly it gets you a picture of your insect, it makes you relax so the pictures turn out better, and it also acclimates the insect to you. Another technique if you are having problems with holding things steady is to go with a monopod or tripod to improve stability. You may also want to experiment with fill flash (see your camera manual). If you try fill flash you may need to put a little frosted tape or kleenex over the flash to keep it from overpowering the subject.

So what if you need or want more magnification but don't want to step up to a DSLR. There is a new world of supplementary lenses that have cropped up. I'm not familiar with these lenses but the Raynox brand is getting very good reviews. You may want to check if they make one for your camera. I am also seeing a new crop of lenses for attaching to camera phones that seem to provide good results.

OC Web-Site Domain Name Change!

Due to some unforeseen issues the OC now has a new Domain Name and URL
Please make a note and add/replace in your favorites....

www.ohiocooleoptera.org

The Ohio Coleopterists Society has launched its new and updated web-site with the new domain name as described above. In addition to this fresh and informative site, the Ohio Beetles Bulletin is being published and e-mailed as a pdf. file. to all OC Members. This bulletin will not be available on the web-site until the next Bulletin is sent and then will be posted as a back issue.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the new website. The header features a navigation bar with links: HOME, COLLECTING, DIARY OF A COLEOPTERIST, MEMBERSHIP, IMAGES, EVENTS ARCHIVE, and OBB. The main content area has a large, stylized logo for "THE OHIO COLEOPTERIST" with a beetle illustration. Below the logo, the text "THE OHIO COLEOPTERISTS" is displayed in green. A paragraph describes the organization's purpose: "As a nonprofit, educational organization our purpose is to enhance knowledge of and promote interest in the beetles of Ohio. We engage in activities aimed at promoting appreciation of beetles, encouraging conservation of habitat, and increasing general knowledge of beetles in Ohio and the surrounding region." To the right, there are four sidebar sections with images and titles: "Collecting" (two people in a forest), "Image Gallery" (a close-up of a beetle), "Ohio Beetles Database" (a person working with a computer), and "Field Trip/Activities Calendar" (two people in a field). At the bottom, there is a "Membership" section with a "Click here for membership information" link and a "American Burying Beetle Reintroduction Project" image.

OHIO COLEOPTERIST SOCIETY

What do I get?

- Your organizations **web-site** with input as to content you would like to see.
- The **Ohio Beetles Bulletin** e-mailed to you in a pdf. file for download or printing. Please contact Ken Karns at species@columbus.rr.com if you are unable to receive a pdf. file and arrangements will be made to mail your issue.
- The Ohio Coleopterists apply for **collecting permits** for the Ohio State Parks, State Forests and Wildlife Areas each year as part of our ongoing Ohio beetle survey. The OC has appreciated the cooperation and support we have received from the State Agencies regarding these permits.
- **Access to many museums** throughout the state for Ohio beetle record surveys.
- **Organized field trips** throughout Ohio.

In order to maintain viability and to fund various projects, the Ohio Coleopterists must collect yearly dues. Recent examples of the types of projects your dues support include but are not limited to; construction of the Ohio Beetles Database project, printing of an OC tri-fold brochure to be distributed to provide an introduction to the OC and recruit new members, Web-site hosting fees, and more...

Dues for calendar year 2014 will be due by December 31, 2013

Dues are \$15/year

Send Check or Money Order To:

The Ohio Coleopterist Society
Museum of Biological Diversity
1315 Kinnear Road
Columbus, OH. 43212-1192